

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) A regional office of Spices Board is already functioning in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Further, the activities of the Board on Post Harvest Improvement of Spices in Maharashtra are being looked after by its regional office of Ahmedabad.

(c) Pesticide residue problem on chilli in Maharashtra has not been reported. However, during the current financial year Spices Board has plans to organise training programmes of half day duration at ten centres of production in Maharashtra to educate the chilli growers on post harvest improvement including pesticide residue problem with the participation of State agriculture/Horticulture Departments.

[English]

Silk Products

5418. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI N. DENNIS:

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA:

DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether target of production of silk and export has not been achieved by the Government during the Eighth plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to meet its target?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) There has been a shortfall in the production of raw silk and export of silk products as compared to the targets fixed for the VIIIth plan period. During the VIIIth plan period, the Planning Commission has envisaged a target of 21,400 tonnes for the production of raw silk and the target fixed for the exports to be achieved in the terminal year of the VIIIth plan (1996-97) is Rs. 1,000 crores. Against these targets, the achievements anticipated at the end of 1996-97 are 15,140 tonnes raw silk production and the exports of silk goods during 1996-97 would be Rs. 880.62 crores (prov.). The reasons for the shortfall in raw silk production are the stresses faced by the sericulture sector such as adverse seasonal condition leading to a dip in the mulberry area in certain States, erratic prices as well as fall in international mulberry raw silk prices. In order to increase and improve productivity/production of raw silk during the IXth Plan period, efforts are being made through programmes/schemes of CSB focussed on providing catalytic development assistance to industry as well as states and in this effort, the infrastructure created and the research efforts of the VIIIth Plan period are likely to help.

In so far as exports are concerned the reasons for

shortfall have been changed in customer preferences and general recession in major markets like USA and Europe. In order to boost the exports of silk products, the Government continues to provide various incentives to the industry such as providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council for undertaking various export promotion activities. Besides, the measures such as the facility of duty free import of raw material under the Advance Licensing Scheme, Import of capital goods at concessional rate of duty for export production, etc. are being continued under the new EXIM policy.

Office of the Garment Export Promotion Council

5419. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to open offices of Government Export Promotion Council in Maharashtra and Gujarat is lying pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir. The decisions relating to opening of the regional offices of the Export Promotion Councils are taken by the Councils themselves.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Coffee

5420. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR': Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of coffee exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years upto March 31, 1997, country-wise;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for the export of coffee during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of coffee during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The total quantity of coffee exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years is given below:

| Year (April-March) | Quantity (in tonne) | Value (US\$ million) | Value (Rs. crore) |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1994-95 | 1,37,395 | 342.12 | 1096.68 |
| 1995-96 | 1,70,990 | 456.00 | 1527.16 |
| 1996-97 (provisional) | 1,64,403 | 410.75 | 1326.40 |

Country-wise details of export of coffee is available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by DGCI&S, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A target of 1,50,000 tonnes has been fixed for export of coffee during 1997-98.

(d) For boosting export of coffee, Coffee Board is focussing on targeted import markets like USA, Japan, Russia and Middle East countries. Coffee Board will also participate in selected food fairs/exhibitions abroad in active association with exporters, release advertisements on unique features of Indian coffee in selected overseas trade journals, sponsor trade delegations/invite delegations of roasters from each of the target markets to India, arrange service of Indian Coffee abroad through our Embassies, distribute gift packets of Indian coffee through Indian Embassies on special occasions and festivals, promote logo for Indian coffee and publish and distribute literature on Indian coffee.

Import of articles Reserved for SSI

5421. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV:

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent announcement of the Government giving facilities for the import of 542 articles in the country has adversely affected Indian industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of articles included in the above list which are in daily use of common consumer and which are reserved for small scale sector; and

(d) whether the Government have provided incentives to the industrial units which are producing above articles so that they can successfully compete with the imported articles?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Export-Import Policy for 1997-98 has put 542 additional items under the Open General Licence (OGL) and Special Import Licence (SIL) for import. This is part of the Government's policy of economic liberalisation for making our industries more competitive.

(c) Of the 542 items put in OGL, SIL only 5 items (category) are reserved for small scale sector of which 3 are of daily/common use.

(d) Several incentives and concessions are provided to the small scale industries including those manufacturing the above items so as to improve the competitiveness of the small scale sector within the overall economy of the country. These include excise concession, priority sector lending, technology and extension support services and reservation of SSI products and price preference for SSI products in the Government procurement.

Textiles Mills, Kanpur

5422. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to close down BIC textile mills, Kanpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to revive these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILE (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) BIC and its cotton subsidiaries viz. Elgin Mills Co. Ltd. and Cawnpore Textiles Ltd. have been ordered to be wound up by the BIFR. The appeals of these companies against the winding up orders are pending before the AAIFR. Pending a final decision by the AAIFR, Government are providing funds for payment of wages, salaries and bonus to the workers/employees of BIC and its subsidiaries.

[English]

All India Powerloom Board

5423. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an All India Powerloom Board/Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly its composition and terms of reference; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) The Government have already set up an All India Powerloom Board vide Resolution No. 1/12/96-W&P dated 21st April, 1997 for a period of two years. The Board will advise the Government generally on matters concerning the healthy development of powerlooms within the power operated weaving sector, including measures to be taken to achieve better productivity, increased efficiency, improve welfare of workers and locational dispersal of powerlooms. A Statement showing the composition of the Board is attached.

Statement

The All India Powerloom Board consist of the following members:

CHAIRMAN

1. Minister of Textiles, Government of India, New Delhi.

VICE CHAIRMAN

2. Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

3. Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Textiles, New Delhi.